

SECURING THE NATION'S RAIL AND OTHER SURFACE TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine securing the nation's rail and other surface transportation networks, focusing on the actions the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has taken to manage risk, improve coordination, and measure performance, and any additional actions needed to enhance efforts, after receiving testimony from David Heyman, Assistant Secretary for Policy, and Carlton I. Mann, Assistant Inspector General, both of the Department of Homeland Security; Stephen M. Lord, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office; John O'Connor, Amtrak, Washington, DC.; Joseph Kelly, NJ TRANSIT, Newark, New Jersey; and Howard R. Elliott, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT), Jacksonville, Florida, on behalf of the Association of American Railroads (AAR).

LANDS BILLS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests concluded a hearing to examine S. 1546, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Mantua, Utah, S. 2798, to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire through the facilitation of insect and disease infestation treatment of National Forest System and adjacent land, S. 2830, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to clarify that uncertified States and Indian tribes have the authority to use certain payments for certain noncoal reclamation projects, and S. 2963, to designate certain land in the State of Oregon as wilderness, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and non-Federal land, after receiving testimony from Harris Sherman, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment; Glenda H. Owens, Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior; Colorado State Senator Dan Gibbs, Breckenridge; Forrest Reinhardt, Venture Beyond, Coto de Caza, California; Gregory E. Conrad, Interstate Mining Compact Commission, Herndon, Virginia; and Dominik Kulakowski, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

H.R. 2062, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to provide for penalties and enforcement for intentionally taking protected avian species;

S. 2724, to provide for environmental restoration activities and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 1700 and S. 2129, bills to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia to provide for the establishment of a National Women's History Museum, with amendments;

A proposed resolution relating to the Army Corps Study; and

A proposed resolution relating to the General Services Administration.

CHRISTMAS DAY ATTACK

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the lessons and implications of the Christmas Day attack, focusing on securing the visa process, after receiving testimony from Janice L. Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs; and David Heyman, Assistant Secretary for Policy, and John Morton, Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, both of the Department of Homeland Security.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Small Business Administration, after receiving testimony from Karen G. Mills, Administrator, Small Business Administration.

G.I. BILL

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine implementation of the new post-9/11 Government Issue (GI) Bill, after receiving testimony from Keith M. Wilson, Director, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Stephen Warren, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, and Dan Osendorf, Director, Debt Management Center, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Robert E. Clark, Assistant Director for Accession Policy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Faith DesLauriers, National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators, Daytona Beach, Florida; William D. Stephens, National Association of State Approving Agencies, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Robert Madden, American Legion, Washington, DC.; Marco Reininger, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, New York, New York.